

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	8:05CR179
vs.)	
)	PRELIMINARY ORDER
VICENTE MENDOZA,)	OF FORFEITURE
)	
Defendant.)	

This matter is before the Court on the United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture and Memorandum Brief (Filing No. 64). The Court reviews the record in this case and, being duly advised in the premises, finds as follows:

1. The Defendant has entered into a Plea Agreement, whereby he has agreed to plead guilty to Counts I, IV and V of said Superseding Indictment. Count I of said Superseding Indictment charges the Defendant with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846. Count IV of said Superseding Indictment charges the Defendant with possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c). Count V of said Superseding Indictment charges the Defendant with using \$60,410.00 in United States currency to facilitate the commission of the conspiracy and charges said personal property is derived from proceeds obtained directly or indirectly as a result of the commission of the conspiracy.

2. By virtue of said plea of guilty, the Defendant forfeits his interest in the subject property, and the United States should be entitled to possession of said property, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853.

IT IS ORDERED:

A. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture (Filing No. 64) is hereby sustained.

B. Based upon Count V of the Superseding Indictment and the Defendant's plea of guilty, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for the District of Nebraska ("ATF") is hereby authorized to seize the following-described property: \$60,410.00 in United States currency

C. The Defendant's interest in said property is hereby forfeited to the United States of America for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1).

D. The aforementioned forfeited property is to be held by the ATF in its secure custody and control.

E. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), the ATF forthwith shall publish at least once for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, in the county where the subject property is situated, notice of this Order, notice of the ATF's intent to dispose of the property in such manner as the Attorney General may direct, and notice that any person, other than the Defendant, having or claiming a legal interest in any of the subject forfeited property must file a Petition with the court within thirty (30) days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

F. Said published notice shall state the Petition referred to in Paragraph E., above, shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the Petitioner's alleged interest in the property, shall be signed by the Petitioner under penalty of perjury, and shall set forth the nature and extent of the Petitioner's right, title or interest in the subject property and any additional facts supporting the Petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

G. The United States may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the property subject to this Order as a substitute for published notice as to those persons so notified.

H. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

ORDERED this 23rd day of December, 2005.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Laurie Smith Camp
United States District Judge